

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 297458

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297458

FOR AMBASSADOR LEARSON USLOS DEL

FOL REPEAT SINGAPORE 5474 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KUALA LUMPUR
JAKARTA LONDON TOKYO DTD 6 DEC.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 5474

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EEWT, SN, NY, ID

SUBJECT: LOS: STRAITS OF MALACCA - TRI-PARTITE MEETINGS

REF: A. SINGAPORE 5328; B. KUALA LUMPUR 6825; C. STATE 286159

1. IN MEETING WITH DCM DECEMBER 6 DEPUTY SECRETARY OF
MFA, TAN BOON SENG, SAID THAT THE TRI-PARTITE MEETING ON
THE MALACCA STRAIT TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME HAD BEEN
POSTPONED UNTIL DECEMBER 10. HE CONFIRMED THAT IT WOULD TAKE
PLACE IN JAKARTA.

2. TAN SAID GOS POSITION ON UNDER KEEL CLEARANCE STILL
FAVORED THREE METERS. HOWEVER, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOS
MIGHT BE PREPARED TO MOVE TO A COMPROMISE POSITION OF
3.25 OR EVEN 3.5 METERS IF THE OTHER TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE
SUFFICIENTLY ACCOMMODATING ON "OTHER QUESTIONS/ AS WELL
AS THE MAJOR ISSUE OF WHETHER THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE
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PAGE 02 STATE 297458

SUBMITTED TO IMCO FOR APPROVAL. HE NOTED THAT GOS CONTINUED

TO TAKE POSITION THAT ANY TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME DEVELOPED BY THE THREE STATES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO IMCO FOR APPROVAL. BUT RECOGNIZED THAT THE GOI AND GOM HELD OPPOSING VIEWS. HE THOUGHT THAT THE GOI WOULD BE THE MOST INTRANSIGENT ON THIS SUBJECT EVEN THOUGHT THE GOM HAD RECENTLY COMMENTED ON THE ISSUE IN THE MALAYSIAN PARLIAMENT IN RATHER STRONG TERMS. WHEN DCM ASKED WHETHER HE SAW ANY WAY OF RESOLVING THIS IMPASS, TAN REPLIED THAT IN THEIR PREVIOUS MEETING S THE THREE GOVERNMENTS HAD NEVER REALLY COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS ISSUE, ALWAYS DEFERRING IT UNTIL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON OTHER MATTERS. HE SAID THAT IF THIS ISSUE PROVED TO BE THE SOLE STUMBLING BLOCK TO AGREEMENT, THE GOS WOULD PROBABLY FEEL COMPELLED TO EXPLORE VARIOUS VERBAL FORMULAS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE WOULD BE POSSIBLE. HOLDRIDGE

UNQUOTE ROBINSIN

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